

Appl. No.: 10/727,728
Response dated August 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 24, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-6 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully request that the amended claims be entered in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the components described in the specification beginning at page 4, extending through page 15, line 20. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 does not enter new matter.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112 be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Examiner has objected to the term "combining" as used in the claim. However, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand the operation of the term "combining." Certainly, "combining" is an active step. One skilled in the reinforced fiber art would understand that "combining" could be carried out in many ways such as co-spinning synthetic fibers with the coated glass fibers, weaving the coated glass fibers with the synthetic fibers, knitting the coated glass fibers with the synthetic fibers, providing a non-woven matrix of the combined synthetic fibers with the coated glass fibers of the invention, reinforcing the non-woven matrix by needle-punching, water-punching, and the like, and other means known to one skilled in the art for "combining" synthetic fibers and epoxy-coated glass fibers. Applicants respectfully submit that the term is not indefinite and fully sets forth what Applicants intend to encompass within their invention.

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112 on the grounds that the composite material is not clearly defined. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art understands the nature of a composite material. Applicants herewith submit page 303 from Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary, 12th edition, 1987. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not have any difficulty understanding use of the term "composite" in relation to the present invention.

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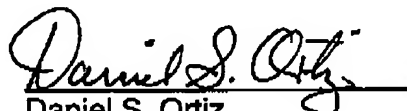
Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection is untenable and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Merkel (U.S. 6,331,585 B1). Applicants respectfully submit that Merkel neither teaches nor suggests the invention as presently claimed.

Applicants have included the limitations shown in the specification beginning at page 4, extending through page 15, line 20. Applicants respectfully submit that Merkel is completely silent concerning the nature of the hardener utilized in the present invention. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is untenable and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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